



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 27, 2012

Thomas E. Torkelson
IDEA Public Schools
505 Angelita Drive Suite 9
Weslaco, TX 78596

Dear Chief Executive Officer Torkelson,

Congratulations on receiving a Race to the Top – District award. I am pleased to provide the enclosed Grant Award Notification (GAN) for your Race to the Top funds consistent with the requirements of section 14005 and 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), as authorized under P.L. 111-5, as amended by section 1832(b) of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012. These funds are being awarded on the basis of your approved budget of \$29,241,967.

This award is subject to the attached grant conditions related to administering the grant, meeting performance goals and targets, and maintaining adequate financial controls. You may draw down no more than 10 percent of the grant (\$2,924,196.70) until the required Scope of Work, including detailed timelines and budgets referenced in condition B (in Attachment T), is submitted to and approved by the Department. The required Scope of Work must be submitted no later than April 8, 2013.

Funds may be drawn down only as they are needed, and their use must be consistent with the implementation of Idea Public Schools' Race to the Top – District plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones. All funds must be used in accordance with your approved application; the detailed Scope of Work, including timelines and budgets, referenced in condition B (in Attachment T); the individual school implementation plan(s); and the statutory and regulatory requirements identified in Attachment T of the award package.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

In addition, I am including a second GAN for the optional budget supplement "Summer College and Career Preview" in the amount of \$1,987,000. The award is subject to the conditions identified in the GAN. As a condition of receiving these supplemental funds, you must, as soon as possible but not later than 100 days after the date of this award, submit a detailed Scope of Work for the optional budget supplement that is consistent with the project proposed in your application. This Scope of Work, separate from and in addition to the Scope of Work for your overall Race to the Top - District plan, should include the specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for the optional budget supplement supported with the Race to the Top - District optional budget supplement funds. The required Scope of Work must be submitted no later than April 8, 2013. In addition, you must submit a completed Part IV: Application Assurances and Part VII: Other Assurances and Certification from the application signed by the Superintendent/CEO and Local School Board President for all local educational agencies participating in the optional budget supplement that were not included in the original Race to the Top - District application.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top - District award, please contact Meredith Farace at Meredith.Farace@ed.gov or 202-401-8368 or Jim Butler at James.Butler@ed.gov or 202-260-9737. We look forward to working with you and your team over the next four years as you implement your bold education reform agenda.

Sincerely,

Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

Enclosure: Grant Award Notification with Attachments
cc: Sam Goessling